

**Regular Session Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting
Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall
Monday, November 3, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Margot R. Fleischman, Michael A. Rosenberg, Mark Siegenthaler, William Moonan, Caroline Fedele, and Town Manager Richard T. Reed

ALSO PRESENT: NSTAR Representative Maureen Carroll; VHB Representatives Bill DeSantis and Trish Domigan; Sam Coursey; John Martines; Gail Green; John Monahan; Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair Terry Gleason; Planning Board member Amy Lloyd; EJ Lloyd; Jamie Lewis; Jan van Steenwijk; Anna and Matt Collins; Kenneth Larson; Town Engineer Adrienne St. John; Public Works Director Roy Sorenson; Assistant Town Manager Jessica Porter; Finance Director Victor Garofalo; Craig Kelly, Bedford TV; Meredith McCulloch and Mary McBride, Press Representatives

Chair Fleischman called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**15-99 Utility Hearing – NSTAR Electric Company – 59 Loomis Street – Pole 18/13
– W.O. # 2009232**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Maureen Carroll, representative for NSTAR, requested a Grant of Location for the purpose of installing 45+/- feet of conduits southeasterly from pole 18/13 approximately 187+/- feet Northeast of Hartford Street.

Mr. Rosenberg asked when the work would be completed. Ms. Carroll stated the Department of Public Works would dictate when the work could happen since they would need to obtain a street opening permit.

Chair Fleischman opened the hearing to the public. No comments were received.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve a Grant of Location to NSTAR Electric Company to serve 54 Loomis Street for 45+/- feet of underground conduit southeasterly from pole 18/13 approximately 187+/- feet northeast of Hartford Street. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

15-105 Call of Annual Town Caucus – January 6, 2015

Mr. Rosenberg moved that Selectmen schedule the Annual Citizens' Caucus for Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with a snow date of January 7, 2015. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

15-108 Minutes – Executive Session – October 6, 2014

Mr. Moonan made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of October 6, 2014 as amended. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

**15-107 Miscellaneous Action Items
Schedule Change on the Fitchburg Commuter Line
One Day Special Liquor License**

The HATS committee is asking for the Selectmen to approve a letter being sent by the HATS communities to the CEO of the MBTA regarding the schedule change on the Fitchburg Commuter Line.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the text of the letter to be sent on behalf of the HATS communities to the CEO of the MBTA. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to grant a one-day special alcohol license to Charles River Wheelman f/b/o Jack Donahue at Old Town Hall on December 5, 2014. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

At the Minuteman 50th anniversary party, Mr. Moonan and his wife Carol Amick presented a replica of the Bedford Flag which will hopefully be hung at Old Town Hall where there is currently no flag. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Moonan for his kind donation.

15-109 Town Manager's Report

Mr. Reed informed the Selectmen that a whole hour was not necessary for the scheduled Selectmen's meeting before Town Meeting. The Selectmen agreed that the meeting should start at 7:00 p.m.

15-100 Railroad Avenue Connection for Minuteman Bikeway Extension

VHB representatives Trish Domigan and Bill DeSantis presented another option for the proposed extension of the Minuteman Bikeway. Several other options were presented over the summer as more feedback was received from the public and from the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Ms. Domigan emphasized that the project is still in the early stages and there is still opportunity to receive feedback from the public and Selectmen.

The new design has a ten foot shared use pathway on the south side of Railroad Avenue, with a 3½ foot grass strip between the pathway and road. There is a four foot sidewalk on the North side of Railroad Avenue. Travel lanes would be ten feet wide with two foot shoulders on each side. VHB is proposing that the whole road be reconstructed which would improve drainage, sidewalks and driveway aprons. Flashing beacons would be placed at the crosswalk to alert motorists. The proposed sidewalk would be placed at the curve as the engineers felt that placing it on the straightaways would block the line of sight for motorists coming around the curve.

Permanent and temporary easements will be needed to complete the project.

EJ Lloyd from Taylor and Lloyd expressed concern over his trucks entering and exiting via Commercial Ave. He stated that there is a need for a buffer zone from the stop line to the crosswalk so that his truck drivers can see the bicyclists and pedestrians. He also pointed out that McDonough Electric is exiting Commercial Drive transporting 60 foot poles and that they need a very wide turning radius.

Residents and business owners still felt that even with all the improvement it is still an unsafe area for bicycle traffic and encouraging more use will only make it more dangerous. It was suggested that maybe the bike path should continue up Elm Brook but the current deed restrictions and potential wetland option do not make this a viable option. It is more used for pedestrian traffic.

Ms. Fedele arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Bedford Charter owner John Martines asked VHB to take into consideration that the buses are now longer and the lot that they are on cannot be reduced in size by pushing the existing fence back.

Mr. Siegenthaler stated that there is a need to look at the long term picture of the bikeway and that the proposed design does not really fit well with the current bikeway. He suggested looking into designing the bikeway to go behind the businesses on Railroad Avenue which may be a safer option. The business owners that this would affect were interested in discussing this option further.

Ms. Fedele noted that even if the bikeway was continued behind the business there is still a need to address the safety issues on Railroad Avenue because people may still use the new sidewalk as the bikeway.

The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the website for the public to view.

15-101 Easement Acceptance – North Road Sidewalk Easement from 114 Pine Hill Road – Donovan Drive Pedestrian Easement – 14 Donovan Drive

Town Engineer Adrienne St. John presented the Selectmen with a trail easement for 14 Donovan Drive and a pedestrian easement for 114 Pine Hill Road. The trail easement would allow for a safer walking path to connect to the Town's network. The easement on 114 Pine Hill Road would accommodate a sidewalk along North Road to be set behind the utility poles. This work could be completed soon, as the fire hydrants have been relocated and trees have been removed.

An additional easement will be needed in the future to finish the sidewalk in this area. The owner is aware of this.

Mr. Siegenthaler moved that the Selectmen accept the permanent pedestrian easement for 14 Donovan Drive as shown on the plan dated May 1, 2014. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the permanent sidewalk easement for 114 Pine Hill Road shown as Easement 35A on a plan dated February 3, 2012. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

15-102 Public Works Roads Resurfacing Program Update

Public Works Director Roy Sorenson updated the Selectmen on the status of the Town's roads and the plan for future management. Fay, Spofford & Thorndike inspect one-third of the roads each year. As of February 2014, Bedford has a rating of 64.5 on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI). Ideally the Town would like to have a rating of 73. The arterial and collector roads have good ratings of 78 and 86.3 respectively. The residential locals and dead end roads need more as they are rated at 50.4 and 50.7 respectively. To improve the Town's overall PCI, Mr. Sorenson estimates that 1.2 million to 1.5 million would be needed to achieve a higher rating. This funding would consist of Chapter 90 funds and the rest from the operating budget.

Mr. Siegenthaler highlighted the need to link sidewalk maintenance with road improvements. Mr. Sorenson stated that he would work with Fay, Spofford & Thorndike to start a similar program to track sidewalk conditions.

15-103 Town-Wide Vehicle Replacement Program

Mr. Sorenson presented the new system that has been implemented at the DPW to track the overall expenses of the Capital Vehicle Program including acquisition, maintenance and replacement. He explained the processes involved in each stage of the vehicles life. The information is incorporated into a spreadsheet that rates when a vehicle might be near the end of the vehicle's useful life.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Sorenson for the work that has gone into implementing the system. It gives a comprehensive view of the current condition of the vehicles.

15-104 FY15 Ambulance Enterprise Fund – Proposed Fee Increase Effective November 15, 2014

Finance Director Victor Garofalo explained that fee increases for the Ambulance Enterprise fund would take effect on November 15, 2014. The hiring process for the paramedics would begin in February of 2015. The ambulance contractor will not be paid more. The insurance companies would still pay for the services along with the customer continuing to pay their copays. The increase is still in the median range in comparison to other communities.

Mr. Siegenthaler moved that the Selectmen approve the updated fee schedule for the ambulance rates effective November 15, 2014 as presented in the memorandum dated October 30, 2014 contingent on Special Town Meeting approval of Article 16 in the Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Fedele abstained because of her family relationship to a Bedford Firefighter.

15-106 November 6, 2014 Special Town Meeting - Preparation

An alternate motion was provided for the Selectmen for Article 13 - Bond Authorization - Town Hall Building Systems Replacement. The new motion would fund a portion of the project using certified free cash instead of a bond authorization which would save the Town over \$200,000 in issuance and interest costs. The Town is able to consider this option because the final free cash amount was higher than anticipated. This will not affect the FY15 budget. It was the consensus of the Selectmen to use the free cash as opposed to borrowing.

Mr. Moonan moved that the Selectmen recommend approval of using free cash to fund Article 13 – Bond Authorization- Town Hall Building Systems Replacement. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Garofalo explained the changes to the operating budget.

Mr. Rosenberg moved that the Selectmen recommend approval of Article 15 - Amend FY 2015 Operating Budgets. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Article 11 – Rescind Prior Bond Authorizations and Related Appropriations was amended from what was printed in the warrant. Money was left over from the original repairs made to the sewer main in Lexington but a new break occurred and the Town has chosen to not rescind that bond authorization so that those funds may be used to repair the new break. The rest of the Article did not change.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to recommend approval of Article 11 – Rescind Prior Bond Authorizations and Related Appropriations. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Negotiations with the Bedford Police Officers Association were concluded and the Selectmen signed the memorandum of understanding at the last Selectmen’s Meeting.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to recommend approval of Article 17 – Appropriate Funds for FY 2015 Bedford Police Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-1, Ms. Fedele abstained.

15-110 Open Discussion and Selectmen Liaison Reports

Mr. Rosenberg recommended that the Selectmen reach out to the new US representative from the 6th district and invite them to a Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Siegenthaler suggested setting up a meeting with VHB, the Department of Public Works and the business owners on Railroad Avenue to discuss establishing the bike path behind those businesses. He also thought staff should look into whether the conservation restriction could be amended to have the entire bike path go behind Railroad Avenue.

Ms. Fleischman explained that the Selectmen will have to sign an agreement with the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust to ensure that the funds granted to the Trust will be turned over to the Bedford Housing Authority. The funds were originally appropriated through the Community Preservation Committee for window replacement and kitchen and bath replacement at the Housing Authority.

Mr. Siegenthaler asked about the status of Bedford Housing Authority Social Services program. Mr. Reed responded that the Housing Authority was expecting the Town to write the RFP. Mr. Moonan stated that he would check on this.

The Regular Session meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.